

We, the Long Beach Unified School District
Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools,
on February 9, 2006,
do hereby dedicate this facility and
the education of homeless children in our community to the legacy of



Mary McLeod Bethune
An American Hero

Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center
Dedication Ceremony
Thursday, February 9, 2006
10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Welcome
Master of Ceremonies

Mike Murray
Government & External Affairs Director,
Verizon

Pledge of Allegiance

Jada Johnson
Student Council,
Hudson School

Welcome to -
A Place To Learn

Felton Williams
Member, Board of Education
and
Suja Lowenthal
President, Board of Education

Because we care -
The Commitment

Chris Steinhauer
Superintendent,
Long Beach Unified School District

Homeless Education is from the Heart

Leslie Smith
President,
Junior League of Long Beach

Our Children, Our Future

Don Knabe
Supervisor,
Los Angeles County, 4th District

The Long Beach Way

Beverly O'Neill
Mayor,
City of Long Beach

"As I give, I get"
Snapshot of Mary McLeod Bethune

Dr. Evelyn Bethune
Special Guest and Granddaughter of
Mary McLeod Bethune

Special Presentation

Larry Whitley
Chairman,
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

Tour/Refreshments

Amy Angel
Staff/Lead Teacher,
Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center

Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center
Dedication Ceremony
February 9, 2006

THE JOURNEY

Two years ago, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe dedicated \$1,000,000 to build a new Transitional Center facility for homeless students residing with their families in local shelters and in our community. Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center, an education annex seamlessly coordinated with the main campus of Elizabeth Hudson K-8 School, is now a state-of-the-art facility that will serve over 300 Long Beach Unified School District students per year.



We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.

— Mary McLeod Bethune



Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center has been the centerpiece of the Long Beach Unified School District's homeless education plan which has as its core mission to facilitate a gentle, safe, but firm landing back into the welcoming arms of education. Bethune Transitional Center achieves its mission by providing an accelerated academic approach that closes the learning gaps caused by being homeless and out of school. In addition to rigorous academics, Bethune Transitional Center provides mental health support, access to medical support, enrichment activities, school uniforms, backpacks, personal and school supplies, books, athletics, and recreation. It quickly transitions students to Hudson School. Since 1991, when the school district's homeless education plan was first implemented, the program has served over 5,000 homeless students. In 2002 Hudson School with Bethune Transitional Center earned the California Distinguished School Award, proving all students can achieve at high levels when given the support they need.



The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.

— Martin Luther King Jr.
Strength to Love, 1963



The history of this project represents the spirit of building and working together that has defined Long Beach from 1990 to the present. In that time, Long Beach and its residents have had its economy spiral downward with the Navy Station and Shipyard closures and aerospace industry downsizing. The people of Long Beach have since rebuilt this sleepy Navy town into a thriving community through dedication to its values of education, the arts, economic development, and public safety.

As Long Beach took courageous steps forward, the State of California and the nation have watched in awe. Today, Long Beach is one of the most desirable cities in the country in which to live. How did this happen? The characteristic that residents reflect most is cooperation. And the area of the community that residents worked hardest on was the education of its youth. Little over a decade ago, student achievement was at an all time low. Today in Long Beach, student achievement is at an all time high and more students are prepared for college than ever before. In 2003, the Long Beach Unified School District earned the prestigious Broad Prize for Urban Education. With it came national recognition as the number one urban school district in the country for closing the achievement gap among ethnicities and across socioeconomic groups.



The ultimate measure of a man
is not where he stands in
moments of comfort
and convenience,
but where he stands at times
of challenge and controversy.

— Martin Luther King Jr.
Strength to Love, 1963



No community program resonates with these words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. more than the district's homeless education program. The program addresses the unique and often disturbing needs of our community's most impoverished children. The Long Beach Unified School District has walked every step, arm in arm, with the people of Long Beach to build this program and facility for homeless children. Non-profit organizations, churches, temples, service clubs, elected officials including the Board of Education, the Long Beach City College Board of Trustees, City Council and the Mayor of Long Beach, Los Angeles County Supervisors, children's organizations, other schools in LBUSD, the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, small and large businesses, the Port of Long Beach, and many, many more, have helped to make sure our children in the most challenging and distressing situation feel loved, comforted, and educated.

Mary McLeod Bethune said, "Invest in the human soul. Who knows it might be a diamond in the rough." Long Beach has done just that. We have found many diamonds among our homeless children and they have shined brighter than we ever imagined back in 1991 when the program first opened its doors in one room within the Family Shelter for the Homeless, a condemned building with broken plumbing, heating, and flooring, where families hoping to get a new start were residing, with the generous support of Catholic Charities.



The true worth of a race
must be measured by the
character of its womanhood.

— Mary McLeod Bethune



In 1989, the Junior League of Long Beach provisional class went to the Family Shelter and discovered thirty-five homeless children who were not allowed by the State Education Code to enroll in school without an address or

birth certificate. Junior League members began volunteering as tutors until the Long Beach Unified School District could bring in a teacher of its own. The Junior League provided field trips, art lessons, birthday celebrations, and hot meals. The Junior League has never stopped the complex work of helping homeless children. They adopted Elizabeth Hudson School, to where Bethune students transition, and they continue their very important enrichment activities on both campuses.

In school districts across this state and across the country, homeless education is still a low priority, and more often than not so are the services provided to homeless children. But in Long Beach, homeless education is a high priority to everyone in the school district starting with the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and executive staff. Though the program, up to today, has been in extremely modest facilities without many of the standards provided to most education sites, it has attracted some of the district's most outstanding education staff. The school district and community appreciate the sacrifices the educators of Bethune Transitional Center have made throughout its history. The school district has gained valuable knowledge by investing, as Mary McLeod Bethune advised years ago, "...in the human soul." Being mindful of the needs and concerns of homeless children has been hugely informative about the needs of all students.

The district's homeless education program was named after a very important American who devoted her life to the service of others, most especially to those who were most in need.



The whole world opened up
to me when I learned
how to read.

— Mary McLeod Bethune



Mary McLeod Bethune, born in 1875 to two former slaves, was the 15th of 17 children. She sharpened her leadership skills in the cotton fields outside of Maysville, South Carolina giving "directions" to her siblings. As a young girl, Mary discovered she was not getting an equal education when the little white girl in the home where her mother worked read a book to her. The little girl was able to read; little Mary Jane McLeod could not. From that day forward, she committed herself to becoming well-educated and making sure other children in her situation could get an education.



Sometimes I ask myself if I have
any other legacy to leave.
Truly, my worldly possessions are
few. Yet, my experiences have
been rich. From them, I have
distilled principles and policies
in which I believe firmly, for they
represent the meaning of my
life's work. They are the products
of much sweat and sorrow.
Perhaps in them there is
something of value.

— Mary McLeod Bethune
Last Will and Testament



Mary McLeod married Albertus Bethune in 1898. In 1904 she began the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Negro Girls with five girls (and her only child, son, Albert). In 1931, it became Bethune-Cookman College. In 1941, the Florida State Department of Education approved a 4-year baccalaureate program offering liberal arts and teacher education. It was through her discussions with United States Vice President Thomas Marshall that the American Red Cross decided to integrate, and African Americans were allowed to perform the same duties as whites. In 1924, she became the president of the National Association of Colored Women, then the highest national office an African American woman could aspire. She founded the National Council for Negro Women in 1935, which today has more than four million members. She was an advisor to four United States Presidents on child welfare, housing, employment, and education. She was a close friend of Eleanor Roosevelt from the 1920's until her death in 1955. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appointed her Director of the National Youth Administration's Division of Negro Affairs, and she was appointed to President Harry Truman's Committee of Twelve for National Defense (1951). She served as Vice President of the NAACP. She dedicated her life to bridging the communication and understanding gaps among races in the United States. Her platform, shortly after the Civil War and long before the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's and 70's, was about the education of America's children - whether poor or wealthy - racial equality, and racial dignity. She fought to end the segregation and discrimination facing African Americans.

We are delighted to have at our Dedication Ceremony, Dr. Evelyn Bethune, the granddaughter of Mary McLeod Bethune. Dr. Evelyn Bethune has continued the work of her grandmother in education and race relations. Dr. Bethune, welcome to Long Beach.

To the all students past, present, and future, who attend Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center, we share Mary McLeod Bethune's Last Will and Testament, written in her own words. No matter your race, religion, age, gender, or whether you come to school with special needs, this testament is for you –

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE

Sometimes as I sit communing in my study I feel that death is not far off. I am aware that it will overtake me before the greatest of my dreams – full equality for the Negro in our time – is realized. Yet, I face that reality without fear or regrets. I am resigned to death as all humans must be at the proper time. Death neither alarms nor frightens one who has had a long career of fruitful toil. The knowledge that my work has been helpful to many fills me with joy and great satisfaction.

Since my retirement from an active role in educational work and from the affairs of the National Council of Negro Women, I have been living quietly and working at my desk at my home here in Florida. The years have directed a change of pace for me. I am now 78 years old and my activities are no longer so strenuous as they once were. I feel that I must conserve my strength to finish the work at hand.

Already I have begun working on my autobiography which will record my life-journey in detail, together with the innumerable side trips which have carried me abroad, into every corner of our country, into homes both lowly and luxurious, and even into the White House to confer with Presidents. I have also deeded my home and its contents to the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation, organized in March, 1953, for research, interracial activity and the sponsorship of wider educational opportunities.

Sometimes I ask myself if I have any other legacy to leave. Truly, my worldly possessions are few. Yet, my experiences have been rich. From them, I have distilled principles and policies in which I believe firmly, for they represent the meaning of my life's work. They are the products of much sweat and sorrow. Perhaps in them there is something of value. So, as my life draws to a close, I will pass them on to Negroes everywhere in the

hope that an old woman's philosophy may give them inspiration. Here, then is my legacy.

I LEAVE YOU LOVE

Love builds. It is positive and helpful. It is more beneficial than hate. Injuries quickly forgotten quickly pass away. Personally and racially, our enemies must be forgiven. Our aim must be to create a world of fellowship and justice where no man's skin, color or religion, is held against him. "Love thy neighbor" is a precept which could transform the world if it were universally practiced. It connotes brotherhood and, to me, brotherhood of man is the noblest concept in all human relations. Loving your neighbor means being interracial, interreligious and international.

I LEAVE YOU HOPE

The Negro's growth will be great in the years to come. Yesterday, our ancestors endured the degradation of slavery, yet they retained their dignity. Today, we direct our economic and political strength toward winning a more abundant and secure life. Tomorrow, a new Negro, unhindered by race taboos and shackles, will benefit from more than 330 years of ceaseless striving and struggle. Theirs will be a better world. This I believe with all my heart.

I LEAVE YOU THE CHALLENGE OF DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE IN ONE ANOTHER

As long as Negroes are hemmed into racial blocs by prejudice and pressure, it will be necessary for them to band together for economic betterment. Negro banks, insurance companies and other businesses are examples of successful, racial economic enterprises. These institutions were made possible by vision and mutual aid. Confidence was vital in getting them started and keeping them going. Negroes have got to demonstrate still more confidence in each other in business. This kind of confidence will aid the economic rise of the race by bringing together the pennies and dollars of our people and ploughing them into useful channels. Economic separatism cannot be tolerated in this enlightened age, and it is not practicable. We must spread out as far and as fast as we can, but we must also help each other as we go.

I LEAVE YOU A THIRST FOR EDUCATION

Knowledge is the prime need of the hour. More and more, Negroes are taking full advantage of hard-won opportunities for learning, and the educational level of the Negro population is at its highest point in history. We are making greater use of the privileges inherent in

living in a democracy. If we continue in this trend, we will be able to rear increasing numbers of strong, purposeful men and women, equipped with vision, mental clarity, health and education.

I LEAVE YOU RESPECT FOR THE USES OF POWER

We live in a world which respects power above all things. Power, intelligently directed, can lead to more freedom. Unwisely directed, it can be a dreadful, destructive force. During my lifetime I have seen the power of the Negro grow enormously. It has always been my first concern that this power should be placed on the side of human justice.

Now that the barriers are crumbling everywhere, the Negro in America must be ever vigilant lest his forces be marshalled behind wrong causes and undemocratic movements. He must not lend his support to any group that seeks to subvert democracy. That is why we must select leaders who are wise, courageous, and of great moral stature and ability. We have great leaders among us today: Ralph Bunche, Channing Tobias, Mordecai Johnson, Walter White, and Mary Church Terrell. [The latter now deceased]. We have had other great men and women in the past: Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth. We must produce more qualified people like them, who will work not for themselves, but for others.

I LEAVE YOU FAITH

Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without faith, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible. Faith in God is the greatest power, but great, too, is faith in oneself. In 50 years the faith of the American Negro in himself has grown immensely and is still increasing. The measure of our progress as a race is in precise relation to the depth of the faith in our people held by our leaders. Frederick Douglass, genius though he was, was spurred by a deep conviction that his people would heed his counsel and follow him to freedom. Our greatest Negro figures have been imbued with faith. Our forefathers struggled for liberty in conditions far more onerous than those we now face, but they never lost the faith. Their perseverance paid rich dividends. We must never forget their sufferings and their sacrifices, for they were the foundations of the progress of our people.

I LEAVE YOU DIGNITY

I want Negroes to maintain their human dignity at all costs. We, as Negroes, must recognize that we are the custodians as well as the heirs of a great civilization. We have given something to the world as a race and for this we are proud and fully conscious of our place in the total

picture of mankind's development. We must learn also to share and mix with all men. We must make an effort to be less race conscious and more conscious of individual and human values. I have never been sensitive about my complexion. My color has never destroyed my self-respect nor has it ever caused me to conduct myself in such a manner as to merit the disrespect of any person. I have not let my color handicap me. Despite many crushing burdens and handicaps, I have risen from the cotton fields of South Carolina to found a college, administer it during its years of growth, become a public servant in the government of our country and a leader of women. I would not exchange my color for all the wealth in the world, for had I been born white I might not have been able to do all that I have done or yet hope to do.

I LEAVE YOU A DESIRE TO LIVE HARMONIOUSLY WITH YOUR FELLOW MEN

The problem of color is worldwide. It is found in Africa and Asia, Europe and South America. I appeal to American Negroes -- North, South, East and West -- to recognize their common problems and unite to solve them. I pray that we will learn to live harmoniously with the white race. So often, our difficulties have made us hypersensitive and truculent. I want to see my people conduct themselves naturally in all relationships -- fully conscious of their manly responsibilities and deeply aware of their heritage. I want them to learn to understand whites and influence them for good, for it is advisable and sensible for us to do so. We are a minority of 15 million living side by side with a white majority. We must learn to deal with these people positively and on an individual basis.

I LEAVE YOU FINALLY A RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The world around us really belongs to youth for youth will take over its future management. Our children must never lose their zeal for building a better world. They must not be discouraged from aspiring toward greatness, for they are to be the leaders of tomorrow. Nor must they forget that the masses of our people are still underprivileged, ill-housed, impoverished and victimized by discrimination. We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.

Faith, courage, brotherhood, dignity, ambition, responsibility -- these are needed today as never before. We must cultivate them and use them as tools for our task of completing the establishment of equality for the Negro. We must sharpen these tools in the struggle that

faces us and find new ways of using them. The Freedom Gates are half-ajar. We must pry them fully open.

If I have a legacy to leave my people, it is my philosophy of living and serving. As I face tomorrow, I am content, for I think I have spent my life well. I pray now that my philosophy may be helpful to those who share my vision of a world of Peace, Progress, Brotherhood, and Love.



This education facility is made possible by the hard work and dedication of countless individuals, organizations, businesses, corporations, and foundations.



With deepest gratitude to Los Angeles County Supervisor, Don Knabe,
for his courageous service to Long Beach.



With deep appreciation to Brandon Paul and his construction company,
Cornerstone General, Inc.
for donating time, materials, and service to build this facility,
making the project come within the budget.



With humble thanks to the Mary McLeod Bethune Dedication Ceremony Planning Committee
With representatives from:

The Long Beach Unified School District
Los Angeles County Supervisor Office of Don Knabe
The Junior League of Long Beach
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
The Villages at Cabrillo
Century Housing
Verizon
Boeing
Long Beach Education Foundation
Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center



To Dr. Evelyn Bethune:
Your dedication to the principles and legacy of your grandmother has been a great gift to Long Beach.



Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education
Suja Lowenthal, President
Jim Choura, Vice President
Jon Meyer, Member
Mary Stanton, Member
Felton Williams, Member
Ngoc Nguyen, Student Board Member

Christopher J. Steinhauser, Superintendent of Schools